

**Practice: 511 - Forage Harvest Management****Scenario: #1 - Organic Preemptive Harvest****Scenario Description:**

Preemptive harvest of forage crops to prevent damage from insects (such as leafhopper on alfalfa) or other pests results in better forage quality and better livestock performance. This scenario is based on forages being harvested only once per season to maintain a desired healthy plant community and stand life. Harvesting is timed to facilitate managing for healthy desirable plants and to lessen incidence of disease, insect damage and weed infestations. Harvested forage containing invasive or noxious weeds is disposed of to reduce potential for spread to in-infested areas.

**Before Situation:**

Forage pests typically would be controlled with pesticides.

**After Situation:**

In organic or transitioning to organic systems, forage pests are controlled by executing a preemptive harvest before pests can damage forage quality. Forage yields are reduced because of immature stage of forage growth. Forage tests are submitted to an accredited lab for analysis. Records of forage quality components are used to adjust feeding rations. Pesticide use is avoided.

**Scenario Feature Measure:** Acres of Forage

**Scenario Unit:** Acre

**Scenario Typical Size:** 30

**Scenario Cost:** \$95.39

**Scenario Cost/Unit:** \$3.18

**Cost Details (by category):**

Component Name	ID	Component Description	Unit	Price (\$/unit)	Quantity	Cost
<b>Acquisition of Technical Knowledge</b>						
Training, Workshops	294	Educational seminar or series of meetings emphasizing interaction and exchange of information among a usually small number of participants.	Each	\$44.18	1	\$44.18
<b>Labor</b>						
Skilled Labor	230	Labor requiring a high level skill set: Includes carpenters, welders, electricians, conservation professionals involved with data collection, monitoring, and or record keeping, etc.	Hour	\$25.07	1	\$25.07
<b>Materials</b>						
Test, Plant Tissue Test	301	Tissue analysis for crops. Includes materials and shipping only.	Each	\$26.14	1	\$26.14

**Practice: 511 - Forage Harvest Management****Scenario: #2 - Perennial Forage Crops, Delayed Mowing****Scenario Description:**

This scenario is based on forages being harvested from existing native hay meadows where the current practice for harvest of hay is on 100% of the field and the timing and schedule is planned to change to benefit lesser prairie chicken habitat. The typical scenario would be harvesting native grass between dates of July 1 and July 20, leaving approximately 6 inches standing residue. Hay harvest only occurs on 70-80% of the field acres (20-30% not harvested) each year with no portion having a harvest in consecutive years. The typical size of native hay meadows for this scenario is 60 acres.. The delayed harvest results in a decrease in overall forage quality. Farmers could see as much as a 50% reduction in market value due to declines in protein (~50%) and digestibility (~20%), making the forage crop less palatable and lower in relative feed value. The selected fields should be large enough to promote ground nesting birds. After young have fledged the field will be harvested for dry forages.

**Before Situation:**

Perennial forage crops are produced and harvested; ground nesting birds are disturbed and/or fledgling birds are killed in the process.

**After Situation:**

Perennial hay crop is harvested while leaving 20-30% of the field unharvested aiding in the survival of ground nesting birds and other wildlife species. Results are increased numbers of grassland birds and higher survival of endemic wildlife that inhabit the forage fields.

**Scenario Feature Measure:** Acres of forage

**Scenario Unit:** Acre

**Scenario Typical Size:** 60

**Scenario Cost:** \$658.98

**Scenario Cost/Unit:** \$10.98

**Cost Details (by category):**

Component Name	ID	Component Description	Unit	Price (\$/unit)	Quantity	Cost
<b>Acquisition of Technical Knowledge</b>						
Training, Workshops	294	Educational seminar or series of meetings emphasizing interaction and exchange of information among a usually small number of participants.	Each	\$44.18	1	\$44.18
<b>Foregone Income</b>						
FI, Grazing AUMs	2079	Grazing is the Primary Land Use	AUM	\$11.89	47.4	\$563.59
<b>Labor</b>						
Skilled Labor	230	Labor requiring a high level skill set: Includes carpenters, welders, electricians, conservation professionals involved with data collection, monitoring, and or record keeping, etc.	Hour	\$25.07	1	\$25.07
<b>Materials</b>						
Test, Plant Tissue Test	301	Tissue analysis for crops. Includes materials and shipping only.	Each	\$26.14	1	\$26.14